

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 EB-11 SCI-06 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 SS-20 IO-14 AGR-20 CEQ-02 EPA-04 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 087035

P R 261410Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 906

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SENV SCUL BIE ASNZ RP SN HK SW

SUBJECT: SPOKANE 1974 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

REF: STATE 208008

PARIS FOR KING COLE

1. OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE INFORMED ME OCTOBER 26 THAT GOS HAS NOW TAKEN DEFINITE DECISION AGAINST SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '74. PRIMARY REASON FOR NEGATIVE DECISION, THEY SAID, IS LACK OF FUNDS. MINIMUM COST IS ESTIMATED AT \$60,000 AND SMALL SWEDISH BUDGET FOR FOREIGN EXPOSITIONS DOES NOT PERMIT THIS EXPENSE. OFFICIALS ADDED THAT BEFORE CALLING EMBASSY THEY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FEDERATION OF SWEDISH INDUSTRIES AND EXPORT COUNCIL AND THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT NOT TO PARTICIPATE.

2. AS REPORTED IN OLSEN/HENDERSON TELCOM ON OCTOBER 4, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BENGTTSSON WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBLE SWEDISH

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PARTICIPATION WHEN CHARGE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH HIM. SUBSE-

QUENTLY, EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAS BEEN IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE, AS WELL AS FEDERATION OF SWEDISH INDUSTRIES, EXPORT COUNCIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD. NEWS OF FAVORABLE FRENCH DECISION WAS IMMEDIATELY CONVEYED TO ALL CONCERNED.

3. I ASKED OFFICIALS IN MFA AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TODAY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SWEDISH DECISION, AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THEY THOUGHT RETURN VISITS TO STOCKHOLM BY COLE AND HENDERSON WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE TO THAT END. THEY RESPONDED NEGATIVELY ON BOTH POINTS. I AGREE WITH THEIR APPRAISAL, SINCE GOS SEEMS DETERMINED NOT TO PARTICIPATE AND IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT SWEDISH INDUSTRY COULD BE PERSUADED TO DO SO WITHOUT BACKING OF GOVERNMENT.
DOZIER

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